

The feasibility of introducing an Insurance Scheme to protect the interest of retrenched workers is also being explored within the framework of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Promotion of Agro and Rural Industries

†*167. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes of his Ministry for promoting Agro and Rural Industries in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Jharkhand;

(b) the details of subsidies being extended by government under various head; and

(c) the steps taken to promote rural industries in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is implementing its programmes/schemes in all the States of the country including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the KVIC, rural industries upto a project cost of Rs. 25 lakhs are being set up.

(b) Under the REGP 25% of the project cost upto Rs.10 lakhs and an additional 10% of the project cost above Rs.10 lakhs upto Rs.25 lakhs is provided as margin money, which is in the form of a back ended subsidy. For weaker sections the margin money is higher at 30% of the project cost upto Rs.10 lakhs.

(c) For the promotion of Village Industries in the country including Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, the REGP will continue to operate in the 10th Plan period on a higher scale.

Committee to Monitoring of IT and Software Industries

* 168. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted any High Level committee to monitor and guide the software and I.T. industries in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given adequate representation to the States like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka keeping in view the size of the I.T. industry and their contribution to the total production and exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) a High Level Committee, viz., "National Advisory Committee on Information Technology" has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Minister for Information Technology comprising of the Members from the Industry, Academia and R&D Organisations in IT sector to identify emerging technology areas and suggest measures/policies/actions for building expertise, human resource development and fostering Research and Development activities with the objective of creating wealth, accelerating economic growth and generating employment opportunities so as to make India a global power, particularly in the area of Information Technology. The Committee has also to suggest measures for rapid development and spread of IT applications such as E-Governance, E-Commerce, Distance learning, Digital library, etc.

(c) and (c) The representation in National Advisory Committee on Information Technology has not been given on State-wise considerations. The doyens of industry who have done extremely well and the Chairmen of the various industry organisations/associations, such as National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Manufacturers Association of Information Technology (MAIT), Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) and Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) have been included. The list of members is given in the statement.

Statement

List of Members of the National Advisory Committee on Information Technology

1. Minister of Information Technology	Chairman
2. Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology	Member
3. Shri F.C. Kohli, Deputy Chairman, Tata Consultancy Services.	Member
4. Shri N.R. Narayana Murthy, Chairman & CEO, Infosys Technologies Ltd.	Member
5. Shri Azim Premji, Chairman, Wipro Corporation	Member

6. Shri Subhash Chandra, Chairman, Essel Group of companies	Member
7. Shri B. Ramalinga Raju, Chairman, Satyam Computers Services Ltd.	Member
8. Shri R.S. Pawar, Chairman, NIIT Ltd.	Member
9. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, CMD, BPL Telecom Business Group	Member
10. Prof. Ashok Misra, Director, IIT, Mumbai	Member
11. Shri Phiroz Vandrewala, President, NASSCOM	Member
12. Shri Satish Kaura, Chairman, Samtel India Ltd.	Member
13. Shri Chirayu R. Amin, President, FICCI	Member
14. Shri Sanjiv Goenka, President, CII	Member
15. Shri Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairman Bharti Telecom	Member
16. Shri Vivek Singhal, Chairman, ESC	Member
17. Shri Vinay L. Deshpande, President, MAIT	Member
18. Shri Raghu Modi, President, ASSOCHAM	Member
19. Joint Secretary (IP Cell), Ministry of Information Technology	Convenor

Grants-In AID to professors of I.I.T.

***169. SHRI ABANI ROY:** Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a grants-in-aid amounting to crores of rupees has been given by the KVIC to various professors of I.I.T. Delhi for various projects/studies in various fields since January, 1996 onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating name of each project, the name of each professor to whom such grants-in-aid had been given and present status of each project; and

(c) the manner in which Government benefited from the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) To (c) No, Sir. The Khadi and village Industries commission (KVIC) has not given any grants-in-aid to any professor of IIT, Delhi. However, the KVIC has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the IIT Delhi for strengthening and revival of Jamnalal Bajaj Central Research Institute, Wardha. The total outlay is Rs.8.35 crore and the objective is to create a mechanism to provide technological inputs for modernising the KVI sector. The project period is 3 years. The project is